

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-0352

Dr. William S. Thompson House

13640 Poplar Hill Road

Phoenix, Baltimore County

1855 ca.

Private

The Dr. William S. Thompson House was constructed circa 1855 near the village of Warren and contributes to the mid-19th century development of that community. Warren was established as a manufacturing village in the early 19th century, when the Warren Cotton Factory was constructed there along the Gunpowder Falls. The 1850 county atlas depicts the factory, sawmill, grist mill, a general store, tavern, schoolhouse and Methodist church in the small community. In 1864, the factory property was sold to Morris and Baldwin. This Baltimore-based firm maintained the mill's operations through the late 19th century. Their acquisition of the Warren factory appears to have had a significant effect on the success of local industry and commerce, for the 1877 county atlas reveals that many more buildings, industrial and otherwise, were constructed over the twenty-seven year period beginning in the mid-19th century. At that time, Dr. William S. Thompson, a thirty-year-old native of Baltimore County, occupied the extant resource, which was located on a 36-acre farm to the north of the center of Warren. Warren continued to grow in population and size through the early 20th century.

The original portion of the modestly detailed Greek Revival style Dr. William S. Thompson House is a two-and-a-half-story weatherboard-clad wood frame dwelling on a solid random rubble stone foundation with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. The three-bay-wide main block features a side entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with a three-light sidelights and a five-light transom, all within a Greek Revival style molded wood surround with stylized pilasters supporting a narrow cornice. Five 6/6 windows, all of which have square-edged wood surrounds and sills, pierce the façade, or south elevation. An interior chimney rises from the center of the main block's roof ridge. Flanking the main block are two one-bay-wide wood frame wings that were constructed circa 1940. The east wing is composed of a weatherboard-clad second story that sits atop a screened first-story porch. The west wing was extended in 1988 by the construction of a five-bay-wide addition with a central entry. A greenhouse that dates to 1988 adjoins the circa 1940 and 1988 additions. The circa 1850 bank barn is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide building clad in weatherboard with a solid random rubble stone foundation and a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal. South of the dwelling is a three-story octagonal cistern tower that dates to circa 1888. The building's wood frame construction clad in weatherboard and capped by an octagonal hipped roof clad in sheet metal. The tractor shed, which dates to circa 1900, is a one-story wood frame building clad in board-and-batten siding with a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-0352

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. William S. Thompson House (preferred)

other Dixon House, Dixon-Spencer House

2. Location

street and number 13640 Poplar Hill Road not for publication

city, town Phoenix vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Michael H. and Pamela B. Spencer

street and number 13640 Poplar Hill Road telephone Not Available

city, town Phoenix state MD zip code 21131

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 12765 folio 603

city, town Towson tax map 43 tax parcel 298 tax ID number 2000013626

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>1</u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-0352

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed circa 1855, the original portion of the modestly detailed Greek Revival style Dr. William S. Thompson House is a two-and-a-half-story weatherboard-clad wood frame dwelling on a solid random rubble stone foundation with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. The three-bay-wide main block features a side entry with a sash-and-paneled single-leaf wood door with a three-light sidelights and a five-light transom, all within a Greek Revival style molded wood surround with stylized pilasters supporting a narrow cornice. Five 6/6 windows, all of which have square-edged wood surrounds and sills, pierce the façade, or south elevation. An interior chimney rises from the center of the main block's roof ridge. Flanking the main block are two one-bay-wide wood frame wings that were constructed circa 1940. The east wing is composed of a weatherboard-clad second story that sits atop a screened first-story porch. The west wing was extended in 1988 by the construction of a five-bay-wide addition with a central entry. A greenhouse that dates to 1988 adjoins the circa 1940 and 1988 additions.

The circa 1850 bank barn is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay-wide building clad in weatherboard with a solid random rubble stone foundation and a side gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The façade is pierced by a flush-vertical-board sliding double-leaf wood door.

South of the dwelling is a three-story octagonal cistern tower that dates to circa 1888. The building's wood frame construction clad in weatherboard and capped by an octagonal hipped roof clad in sheet metal. A paneled single-leaf wood door centrally pierces the north elevation of the first story, while one 12/2 window is located in the second story. The third story is open on the four primary sides, with a square-edged wood balustrade spanning the openings. The structure sits on a brick pier foundation.

The tractor shed, which dates to circa 1900, is a one-story wood frame building clad in board-and-batten siding with a front gable roof clad in standing seam metal. The solid random rubble stone foundation is parged with concrete. The façade is pierced by a double-leaf sliding door.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-0352

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1855 ca.-present **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1855 ca., 1940 ca., 1988

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Dr. William S. Thompson House was constructed circa 1855 near the village of Warren and contributes to the mid-19th century development of that community. Warren was established as a manufacturing village in the early 19th century, when a the Warren Cotton Factory was constructed there along the Gunpowder Falls. In 1830, after the mill was in operation for only a few years, several of the industrial buildings burned.¹ The factory appears to have continued operations over the next thirty four years, for the 1850 county atlas depicts the factory, sawmill, grist mill, a general store, tavern, schoolhouse and Methodist church in the small community.² In 1864, the factory property was sold to Morris and Baldwin. This Baltimore-based firm maintained the mill's operations through the late 19th century.³ Their acquisition of the Warren factory appears to have had a significant effect on the success of local industry and commerce, for the 1877 county atlas reveals that many more buildings, industrial and otherwise, were constructed over the twenty-seven year period beginning in the mid-19th century. At that time, Dr. William S. Thompson, a thirty-year-old native of Baltimore County, occupied the extant resource, which was located on a 36-acre farm to the north of the center of Warren.⁴ Warren continued to grow in population and size through the early 20th century.

¹ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 881.

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA), p. 881.

⁴ *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-0352

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>1 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Towson</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1855, the Dr. William S. Thompson House has been associated with the 13.34 acres of land known as tax parcel 298 of map 43 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 18, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

5683 II SW
(HEREFORD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

76°37'30"
39°30'

361000m E

362

SUNNYBROOK (JUNC. MD. 196) 0.7 MI.

363

35'

4373000m N

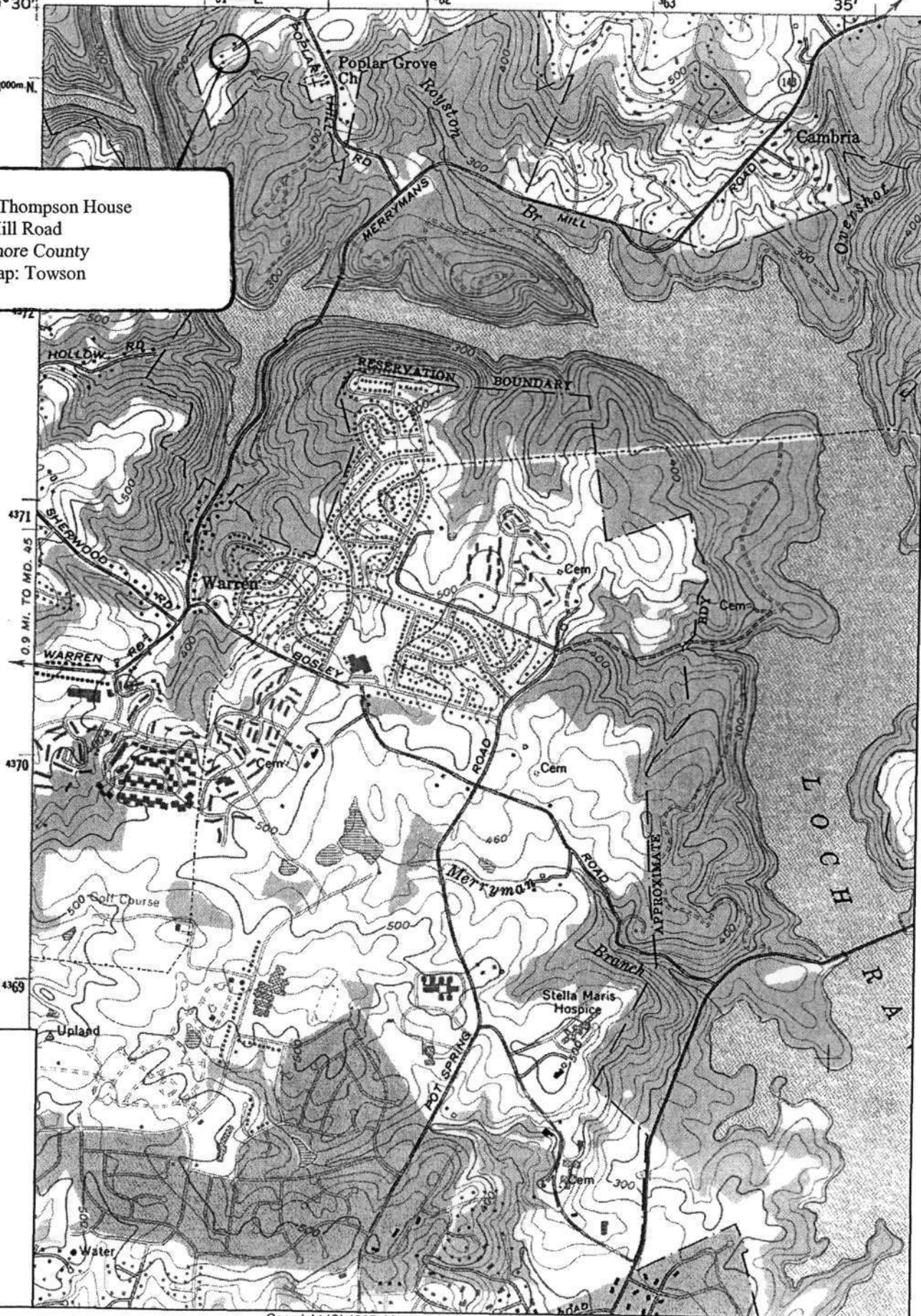
BA-0352

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13640 Poplar Hill Road

Phoenix, Baltimore County

USGS Quad Map: Towson



11° W



BA 0352

13640 POPLAR HILL ROAD

PHOENIX

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

SW ELEVATION

1 of 4



BA-0352
13640 POPLAR HILL ROAD
PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD
TRAILER 15
4/2001
MD-SHPD
NE ELEVATION

2 of 4



BA-0352

13640 POPLAR HILL ROAD

PHOENIX

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

W CORNER

3 of 4



BA-0352

13640 POPLAR HILL ROAD

PHOENIX

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERES

4/2001

MD-SHPD

CISTERN

4 of 4

BA-352

DIXON HOUSE - c. 1855 - West side of Poplar Hill Road, 0.4 mile south of Paper Mill Road, well back from highway. Also called Weymouth Farm. Frame and clapboard house of two stories with gable roofing. Three-bay central block with off-center entrance; door with transome and sidelights. Federal style. Three frame wings. Possible built for summer boarders. Hand-hewn beams in cellar. Land was acquired in 1855 by Dr. William Thompson from Mary and Jemima Gorsuch. Thompson was a Naval surgeon and world traveler. This house is first found in the 1876 tax ledger, then in 1877 atlas. There is also a three story frame and clapboard, hexagonal gazebo with observation deck, originally containing a water tank. Large ginko tree and American Larch tree on grounds. Owner: Dr. William T. Dixon.